

THE POINT

THE FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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FALL 2002

WEEK OF OCTOBER 10TH



Blessid Union gathers for a group shot after their powerful performance.



All the bad weather couldn't rain on his parade. A float still judged in the competition.

FalconFest features Blessid Union and festivities

By Samantha Baker

FalconFest, or FSC's Family/Homecoming Weekend, usually kicks off on a Friday night with a parade and fireworks. Different clubs and offices on campus create floats to go along with the theme for the weekend, this year being American Music: Broadway and Beyond. Along with floats, there is usually a marching band and classic cars as well.

This year's FalconFest, however, didn't kick off with the usual parade and fireworks. Due to the weather, both were canceled, but clubs and offices were still able to have their floats judged outside the Hammond Building on Friday evening.

There was a small crowd for the judging of the three floats that were there. As it turns out, each float that participated were from three different categories and each won a part of the contest. Sigma Tau's "Dedication to Britney Spears" float won the best

float for a fraternity or sorority and will have \$250 added to their budget.

With a "Wizard of Oz" theme, ABC and NAHB won for best club float. The two groups won \$500 that will be split between their budgets.

Lastly, the Campus Center and Volunteer Center won the best office float and a \$200 gift certificate to Slattery's. Going with the Broadway theme, they presented a medley of Broadway songs. Those present had the opportunity to see Mike Heagerty perform to "Age of Aquarius" from the musical "Hair," Nicole Kelso take on the role of Eva Peron from "Evita," and Nick Howe sing a song from the hit musical "Rent."

Although the weather put a damper on the festivities Friday night, several groups still had the opportunity to show off their hard work, and just before a downpour began a few minutes after everything ended. The rain could not ruin the FalconFest spirit.

By Amy S. Bobrowski

"It was awesome. It was like a dream come true to hear them sing 'I Believe' in person," said FSC student Michelle Hiatt of the Blessid Union of Souls concert that was held on Sat., Sept. 28.

The concert that was part of FalconFest weekend brought out fans of all ages to listen to a night of many types of music from this very talented Band. Eliot Sloan, lead singer of Blessid Union, agrees with Hiatt. "The crowd was great. We love playing colleges. And tonight I was able to get so much of my energy from the audience." Sloan threw the audience for a surprise from the first moment when he entered from the back of the auditorium and made his way down the aisle belting out melodious notes at the top of his lungs.

During the almost two hour set, the songs the band performed spanned the genres from classic rock and jazz, to pop, punk and reggae. The group performed tunes from all of their albums including their biggest hit "Hey Leonardo (She likes me for

me)." One of the biggest crowd pleasers was "Light in Your Eyes," which Sloan on the keyboards ended in a jazz style ditty to lead into the most awing part of the evening.

As Sloan began the intro to "I Believe," cheers and applause shook the room, but died down quickly to a still silence. The stage was black except for a single spotlight on Sloan at the keyboard. As he started singing, the audience was so quite you could hear a pin drop. Slowly the crowd joined in on the vocals, but the stillness in the air remained until a sway began with friends holding friends and family.

After this exhilarating sensation, the rest of the group, which includes Jeff Pence as lead guitarist, Tony Clark on the bass, Sean Shafer on drums and Bill Billheimer on guitars, joined Sloan on the stage to pick up the energy. Sloan told the crowd, "This is a concert, not a conference," to make them get out of their seats, rush the stage and dance for the remainder of the night.

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Letter to the Editor

College: A Department Store of Success?

By Ryan White

Ask the average college or university student why they are in an institute of *higher education* and they will most likely say, "to get a good/better job," or "to make money," or "to be successful."

When did college become only a place to find success instead of the place to enlighten yourself? It used to be that people went to school to learn, to expand their mind. When a professor would mention a book, students would be running to the library to pick it up and find out for themselves what the book was saying and, dare I say it, they would think for themselves.

In a book entitled "Steal This Book," Abbie Hoffman suggests asking a professor if you can participate in a class you are interested in (just sit in and contribute without getting credit) for the simple sake of participating and learning. Was Hoffman suggesting that you learn for yourself?

Even at FSC you can see this apathy for initiative. How many students are reading books that aren't required for a class? Our library is full of books that have not been touched for years. In Race and Ethnic Relations, a class which I consider to be one of the most engaging and relevant here

at FSC, the majority of the students are there to fill a requirement for their major. I wonder how big the class would be if it wasn't required for so many different things.

I do not mean to say that individuals should not want to provide an easy, healthy life for his or her family or be a success. However, this raises an interesting question. What does it mean to provide for a family or be a success? Does it mean you have a wonderful job where you make mucho dinero, live in a plush house and send the children to private school?

And what if the garbage man who reads books to his children and goes to all of his children's activities. Is he not providing for his family, is he not a success? But alas, that is another topic altogether.

Think about this, if you go to school simply to get a good job then you have just dropped four years and forty or fifty grand to be able to work forty hours a week.

It seems the Wu-Tang Clan was right when they commented on society saying, "Cash rules everything around me, C.R.E.A.M., get the money dollar, dollar bill y'all."

So I say this, tomorrow go to class and listen, read the books your professors suggest and think. Remember, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

Complicated connection

Dear Editor,

As a student of FSC for four years I have seen the evolution of the campus wide computer network into the form has taken presently. I had fully intended to write this letter with the same ire I feel that some of the campus community has regarding the blackouts and loss of service that occur on a regular basis.

Instead I offer a different approach to fixing this problem, one that increase the effective pipeline to the campus while also clearing the congestion that occurs in between stops on the network.

The college is setup in a manner that has a couple connections that move data at 1.5 mb/s from the Internet. Also, the connections between rooms and some of the buildings are over Category 3 and 5 wires that connect directly into hubs. For many of you this might be total gibberish, so I will do my best to explain it in laymen's terms.

The wiring is the most difficult part to replace, so I will explain that first. The wiring of a network is like the vein system throughout your body, it moves the information to and fro throughout the network. The current implementation has a good backbone but with poor connections in the rooms and to the buildings. Currently the rooms can only receive up to 10 mb/s over Category 3 wire.

The ideal upgrade to this would be to place Category 5E wire in their stead. This type of wire can support 1000 mb/s and would be more appropriate for future upgrading. Laymen's breakdown: this help data move from the rooms to the infrastructure of the network in a more efficient manner.

The infrastructure of the network is the part that is the easiest to replace and would have the most significant results. The network, in a lot of areas, is connected from the backbone with hubs. Hubs are equivalent to a tollbooth on the highway. They have a limiting factor that is not present in the upgraded models of hubs called switches.

I will paint a picture to try and illustrate. Imagine on the highway if you were driving and came to a tollbooth. You notice that your lane of traffic can only go through the tollbooth when a car from the other lane of traffic goes through. So your sitting there, saying to yourself, "There has to be a better way to do this." That is sort of like the infrastructure on the network.

A hub can only receive data in one clock cycle, it cannot send and receive at the same time, but a switch can. In testing that I have done at the company I work, I have seen the difference between a hub and a switch and measured the difference. A switch was able to move data at a magnitude of 6 times faster than a hub. Also the innards of a switch

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of *The Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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Computed opinion

Continued from page 2
 "remember" the computers connected to it, making the interchange of data that much more efficient. This improvement would not increase the pipeline from the Internet but would significantly improve communication across campus like sharing music files and the like between computers.

All that I have described are the best improvements that could be made for network, but like all things, it will cost money. This is the hard part for any state school when it comes to receiving adequate funding for programs such as this.

Here is the break down of cost that I figured out. A connection to the Internet that runs a 21 mb/s from Verizon, as part of their Gold Service which includes the necessary equipment and line fees, costs about \$13,000 a month. There are 12 months in a year, making the total for a year-round service such as this \$156,000.

Now lets say the dorms are full and there are 1300 students living on campus; if we take the cost of powering the network for a full year divided by the number of students living on campus the total would be \$120. To further increase the improvements that

could be made a base fee of \$200 could be applied, in \$100 a semester charges, to fix the issues for getting new switches and new wiring. I, personally, would pay an extra \$100 a semester in order to have top-notch Internet access.

Considering most people pay for school through loans, adding an extra two-hundred bucks to the daunting total would not put most into a state of shock. That is why I believe this complete renovation of the network is possible, with just the student's support.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I used to work for the MIS department from the fall of '98 to the spring of 2000, and I believe if they did receive the proper funding for the type of project I propose, the changes would be implemented.

The time has come for newer technologies to be deployed at Fitchburg State, as students we need to step up to the table and take the initiative to begin the preliminary process of making the proper changes. The first step is always the hardest, but the walk will be well worth it.

-Mike Courtney

Renovation without communication

By Kristine McCaffrey

Herlihy Hall looks beautiful. There are new beds, desks, bureaus and closets. What a lucky girl I am to have a brand new dorm room and new furniture, floors and freshly painted walls. Although Herlihy looks beautiful, it lacks the essentials.

As of Sept. 9, a list of 58 names was floating through the facilities building, of those who did not have working phone ports. Other students had been put on an Internet list for those whose Internet ports were not functioning. My roommate and I were on these lists. We went a total of ten days without being able to receive incoming calls. No one could tell me what to do.

R.A.s in the building told residents that "a guy would be in on Wednesday." They were obviously misinformed because no "guy" showed up. In fact facilities did not even have a list of what rooms were in need of phone or Internet ports. If I were a freshman I would probably still be without a phone since no one ever told me to "check with facilities." I took it upon myself to take a walk over there.

I understand if the R.A.s did not know what do to about the phone situation. I don't expect them to have all the answers, but they could have directed me to someone who might know what to do. I can even understand that facilities couldn't get every port

turned on in time for move in day, but why wasn't there a list of room numbers kept of those missing important communication components. What if there had been an emergency with my family? How would people get in touch with me?

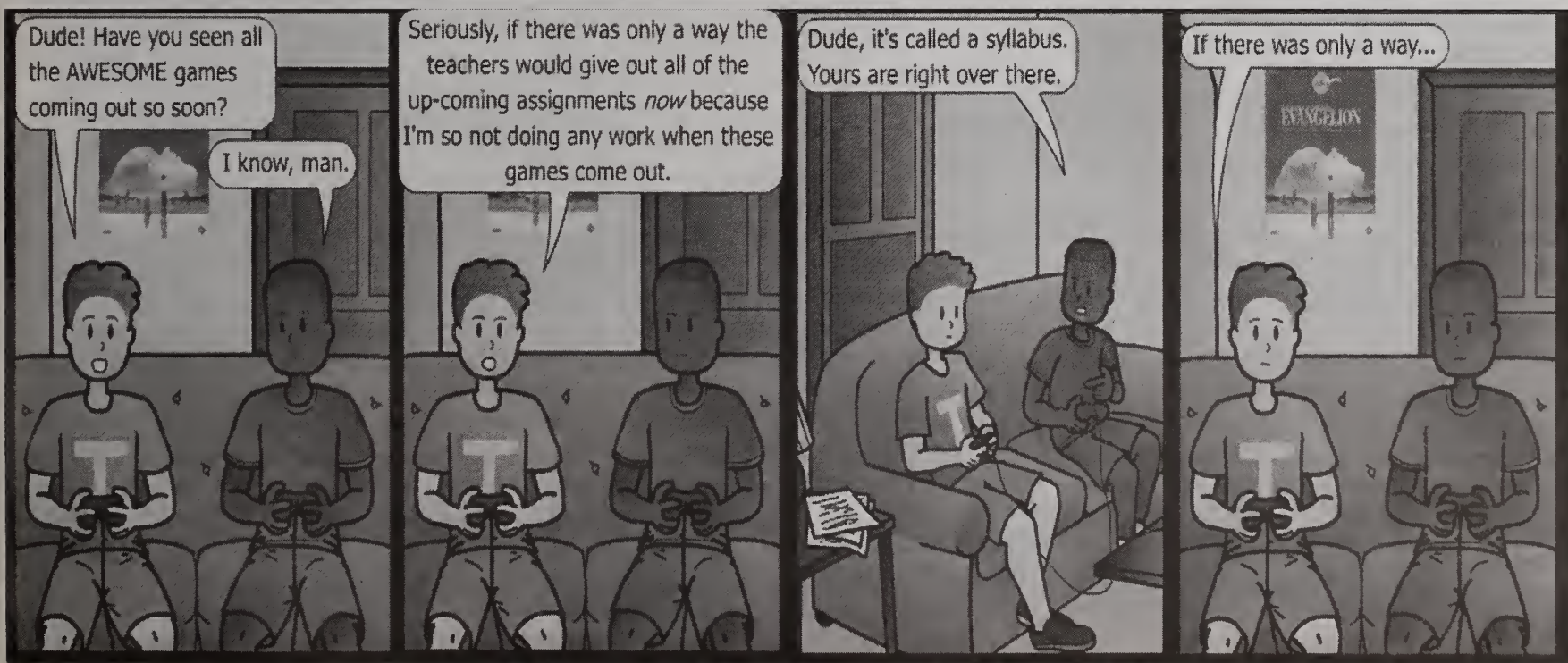
Perhaps Herlihy Hall's repairs and renovations needed to be prioritized. Perhaps before turning the lobby into a lounge, that could double as a "TRL" or "I Dream of Jeannie" set, they could have made sure all phones work. Maybe before re-carpeting the hallway rugs someone might have given Internet ports a quick thought. Maybe before hanging decorative FSC flags on lampposts, the walls in each room could have been washed and dust ed before painting. This way the paint wouldn't peel off with the decorating of posters (even after the use of painter's tape and sticky tack, which were the instructions of what to use by each R.A. during movie in day).

Don't get me wrong I love the changes to my residence hall. I love my new mattress and my new room. I couldn't wait to tell my friends and family back home about it. The problem was I couldn't because I couldn't (and still can't e-mail) them or call them for ten days. It was a problem that could have been avoided and should have been taken care of before the first few days of classes.

Thinking Impaired

by Kelsey Doherty

www.thinkingimpaired.com

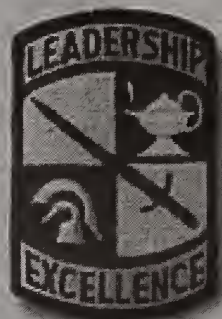




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Resident connection back in gear

School buys two brand new T1 lines to help boost internet speed

By Andy Levine

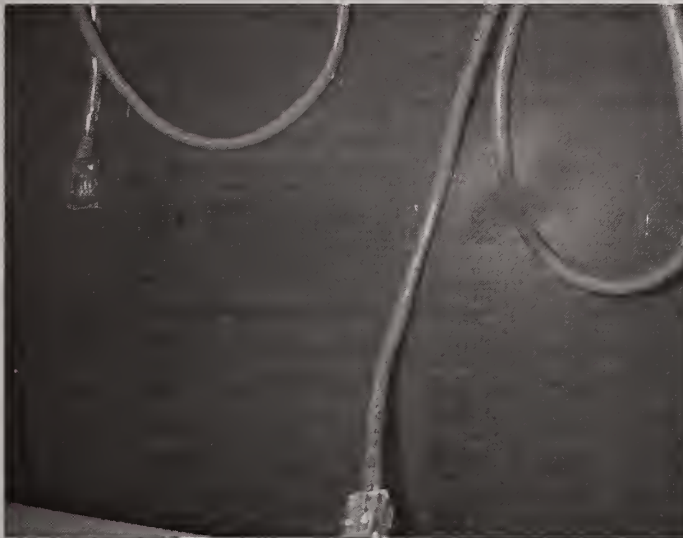
Last year, students were so frustrated about the stability, or lack there of, in accordance with the school provided Internet connection, you might have been able to spell out a SOS with the hair being pulled out in rage. Apparently the school saw the cry for savior and threw the collective residents a high tech bone.

Over the summer, two brand new T1 high speed Internet connections were purchased to be solely dedicated to the residence halls. The previous year had only a single T1 line serving the student living quarters.

In addition, a package of "shaping" software was purchased to control and manage the usage the bandwidth. By having the ability to control the bandwidth, the network

becomes more efficient and therefore provides higher connection speeds.

Previously, the school was experiencing problems that would slow the entire connection down a notch. Outsiders, meaning off-campus computers, would be able to access on campus computer for various reasons. This ate up allot of the students bandwidth. The new software limits this to a degree making the intruding of outside sources more limited.



Director of Campus Living Jay Bry answered in a firm "Yes," to the question of 'Are you happy with the results of what has taken place?'

"We are continuously working to make the situation better," Bry reinforced.

Some feel that although the problem may have been helped, this current system has its imperfections.

"While I think that the Internet is slightly faster this year, it still doesn't make up for the constant network failures that do not allow me to finish my work on time," said sophomore Matt Krol.

One major flaw with the network is the problem people are having with signing on and constantly "getting booted off" America Online's popular Instant Messenger.

This problem is not the fault of the school's though. The problem is with AOL. At press time, MIS was working with AOL in an attempt to fix the frustration by students who rely on "IM" as their main form of communication besides talking.

Dreaming of Disney?

Disney Seeks Students from Fitchburg State College on October 16th, 2002

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – Every year, more than 7,500 college students from across the United States pack their bags and head to the *Walt Disney World College Program*. Now, *Walt Disney World* is coming to Fitchburg State College to recruit students to work during their 100 Years of Magic Celebration!

Fitchburg State College and Mount Wachusett Community College students can attend a presentation and meet with a *Walt Disney World College Program* recruiter on Wednesday, October 16th, 2002 at 5P.M. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in the Campus Center to learn more about internship opportunities.

While participating on the college program, students will have the opportunity to take educational courses, and may be able to earn college credit here at Fitchburg State College or Mount Wachusett Community College. Students work throughout the resort in a variety of roles including attractions, lifeguarding, food & beverage, etc. Finally, students will live in company sponsored housing with students from the United States and Puerto Rico.

Students who are interested must attend a presentation hosted by a *Walt Disney World College Program* Recruiter to interview for the program. The Program is open to all undergraduate students in any major who have completed at least one semester of school. For more information visit www.wdwcollegeprogram.com or e-mail FSCTDisney@hotmail.com Disney is equal opportunity employer drawing creativity from Diversity. Dream it. Do it. Disney.

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Union of Souls creates crowd of entertainment

Continued from page 1

"It became very lively very quickly when the crowd charged the stage at the band's request," said Lisa Clark. "I was supposed to be working crowd control, but obviously that idea got thrown out the window." Clark had no hard feelings. "We were all really happy because everyone had a good time."

During "Oh Virginia," Sloan added another highlight to the evening as he shoved his microphone in the face of Clark to make him join in on the vocals. Clark's voice is impressively as low as his bass guitar. Shortly after the group showed their classic rock talents with an abridged version of "Sweet Home Alabama," changing it to "Sweet Home Massachusetts." Followed by the Beatles' "Revolution," students and parents alike sang along to this impressively performed cover.

The classic rock ended as punk beats picked up. To the surprised of the entire audience the group performed "I Believe" in a punk style,

switching to a reggae style for later verses. As the band walked off stage throwing sweaty towels into the crowd, Sloan remained for a few moments, finishing up the night with the final words of "Bohemian Rhapsody."

The production was great from every point of view. Though Sloan mention there was some minor technical difficulties, "The energy you guys give us makes it worth it every single night."

Sloan had nothing to complain about after the show or throughout his career. "I've been singing professionally for the past 15 years. Anything that is hard is still hard, but you get used to it. There is no one hard part. You learn to deal with it and I can't complain at all. Every performance is a release. It lets us get out all of our frustration and anger, but also share our happiness too. Every night is like a celebration. But the 60 minutes before every show is when we get really antsy," Sloan told "The Point."

Not one member in the audience could tell of Sloan's antsy feelings. "It was great, so great. It was wonderful," said FSC student and huge Blessid Union fan Colleen Montgomery.

According to FSC student Samantha Baker, the crowd performed just as good as the band. "The crowd was so enthusiastic. They were all you heard during breaks." Many members of the crowd remained in the auditorium after the show trying to catch a word with the group and get autographs and pictures. This swarm of people has the Programs Committee and SGA to thank for sponsoring such a wonderful night.

Bass player, Tony Clark, also agreed that the performance was "great fun. Anytime we play and nothing breaks, it always a great show," Clark jokes.

Calender of events and activities

Films

Classic Film Series - Oct. 17, 7 p.m., "Texas Chainsaw Massacre"; Ellis White Lecture Hall.

LASO Movie Night - Oct. 15, 8 p.m., Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Special events

Hypnotist - Oct. 16, 9 p.m., performance by Tom Deluca; Percival.

Kids' Day - Oct. 19, noon-3 p.m., North Street Playground.

Mission Improvable - Oct. 9, 9 p.m., Underground.

Mocktail Night - Oct. 23, 9 p.m., Underground.

Pajama Party - Oct. 17, 9 p.m., Underground.

WXPL Night - Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., Underground.

Volunteer Events

City of Fitchburg Civic Clean Up - Oct. 19, 7:30 a.m., Meet in front of the campus center.

Kid's Day - Oct. 19, noon to 3 p.m., North Street Playground. Games, crafts, face painting, music, snacks, and prizes.

IFSC / Volunteer Center Halloween Party - Oct. 27, 1-3 p.m., Underground.

This week's calendar covers events through Oct. 27. Listings including date, time, location, admission fee, sponsor and contact telephone number may be sent by e-mail to point@fsc.edu, or by campus mail to The Point, Hammond Building.

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PS2 v. XBox v. GameCube:

Battle of the next generation gaming systems

By: Elisabeth Ricci

What's the best way to use your money and fail your classes? Playing video games of course! One of the major things in college dorms nowadays is the video game console. Video games have always been a popular thing. With their popularity comes the rivalries and video game wars!

Most of the gaming magazines have had articles that rated and compared the three main consoles that are around now. The XBox, built by Microsoft, nearly always gets the highest rating, though most people will tell you it doesn't deserve it.

Next in line is the Playstation 2, made by Sony, which is what this author has. And last, but certainly not least, there is the GameCube by Nintendo.

Let us start with Microsoft's XBox. If you want something that's complicated and gives you a hard time like your computer does, this thing is the perfect thing for you. Microsoft has no idea how to entertain people. They have always dealt with computers and computer software only. Also, I'm sure everyone has heard at least a joke or two relating to the incompetence of Microsoft. Do you really want one more thing giving you those wonderful error messages? And believe me, the XBox has its errors.

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Sony's all powerful PS2, the system that
features. most people play.
Howev-

er, you need to consider the differences very carefully. For example, the controllers on the XBox are huge! As gamers like me know, you don't want to have to think too much when you're playing a game. In fact, that's the whole point of playing; it helps you relax (well, most of the time it does) and doesn't require any hard thought processes. Well, a big complicated controller is just no fun, and the XBox controller has too many unnecessary buttons. The simpler the better.

There is one good thing about the XBox though. For people that need speed and power, the XBox is said to be faster and better. Supposedly, the graphics are much better and the loading speed for games is faster,



but I don't see it. It even has a built in hard drive. Kee2p in mind though that the graphics, speed, and hard drive doesn't matter if you don't have good games to back it up!

The Playstation 2, the successor of Playstation,

is a great Sony product. Sony has been around for a long time, and they know what it takes to keep people entertained. They've manufactured things like TVs, CD players, VCRs, camcorders, and even computers. Sony has kept us entertained for years, and there isn't a place that you can go where you don't see something that says Sony on it.

A PS2 controller fits in your hand comfortably and is simpler to use.

I haven't mentioned the GameCube yet, because I believe it is in a league of its own. Don't get me wrong, it stands on its own, but it's not quite similar to the other two systems. Nintendo has been around for a long time. They held on strong when other companies, such as Sega, fell off of the market. They won us over with The Mario Brothers, Zelda, the Castlevania series, Double Dragon and so many other games that to this day have withstood the test of time.

Their latest creation is the GameCube, which I think is fun to play. It's almost nostalgic in a way. The overall performance and handling of it, is not as good as the PS2, but I think it's definitely better than the

XBox. I'm not too worried about Nintendo. Younger kids will always love it, and once Nintendo gets them hooked, they'll be playing video games for the rest of their lives. Sony and Microsoft should be thanking them.

On to the most important thing: the games! The PS2 has a whole slew of games that are just great. The XBox doesn't have a large library of games, and they don't even seem to care. But, Sony has already taken us to the extreme with Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty.

Final Fantasy X is one of the coolest games I've played, and Final Fantasy XI is in production. And, if you check out issue #105 of Game-Informer Magazine, they made a list of the top 10 video games of 2001, and Grand Theft Auto III (for the PS2) came in second place while Metal Gear Solid 2 got first place. Halo (for the XBox), on the other hand, came in at number 9. So, what good is it to have all that speed and power if your games suck?

The whole point of a gaming system is to be able to play high quality games, and lots of them! Nintendo has some pretty good games too. They have Luigi's Mansion, Mario Sunshine, and the pretty cool (and gory) Resident Evil. If you're wondering, all of the systems share some common games, such as sports games and other games like Crazy Taxi 3 and Spiderman.

Overall, the PS2 is from a better company, has better controllers, and has more games that are really great. The GameCube also comes from a long line of systems from a good company as well, and the games are also pretty good. But the XBox should just be used as a very expensive doorstop. So remember, PS2 good, GameCube ok, XBox bad.

Check it Out: Website Reviews

By Shawna Roberts

Almost everyone has owned played with a Magic 8-ball at one time or another. Thanks to some ambition and a drill, the mystery of how the magical device works has been solved. At <http://8ball.ofb.net>, you'll find step by step photographs of the dissection of an 8-ball, along with detailed description of all of the parts. So grab a drill, and check it out.

CAMPUS

CREATIONS

3AM by Patricia Griffin

Its 3 a.m. and I'm sit up straight in my bed again
Guess I've been thinking about you again
I look to my left but something ain't right
You no longer sleep at my side
Then I turn that light on
It hurts my eyes to see that you've gone
If wishful thinking could somehow be true
Then you'd feel for me like I feel for you
Do you feel for me like I feel for you
Do you reach out in the middle of the night
To feel if I'm lying there by your side
Do those cold white sheets that you touch make you blue
Do you feel for me like I feel for you
Is your sleep as restless as mine
Tossin' and turnin' all through the night
If you search your bed over before the night's through
Then you feel for me like I feel for you
Do you feel for me like I feel for you
Do you reach out in the middle of the night
To feel if I'm lying there by your side
Do those cold white sheets that you touch make you blue
Do you feel for me like I feel for you

Superduperficiality by Judi Real

in my uprising, in my state of maturity.. there was you.
though not a portrait of perfection, you crossed my mind tonite.
last nite. nite and nite again.
i've grown beyond superficiality.
i've surpassed the habit of body before mind.
and within this i fall. for you, then backwards.
an epiphany which should be so rewarding has left me in shambles.
and since the attraction excludes aesthetics, my insides,
my stomach, my lungs, feel the pain.
no longer do my eyes cry. for there was no sight,
only music.
and i touched words as they escaped your mouth.
i held them. imprisoned soul. i bottled your essence and drink it daily.
so 10,000 apologies for my drunken pursuit, but your acceptance is
sobriety.
i'm craving normalcy...

Untitled by Meghan Cole

Look into my eyes
What do you see?
This is what I see
Pain, Anguish and Fear
People see a front that I put on
They see happiness; a girl that is all smiles
I try to break down the walls
I am able to but they just seem to get bigger and then thicker
The walls surrounds me
They surround me like there is no tomorrow
The people that care about me try to break them down
For some reason I do not let them
I don't want the walls to break down just yet
I am not ready
Not ready to trust, to open up and allow people to help
Look into my eyes once again
What do you see?
This what you do not
This is what I want
Happiness and the ability to trust

Filling in the Blank by Andy Levine

This once blank page
is angry that
words have now arrived
the chance for freedom
this page desired
have passed away and died

This once white field
had thought and ink attack
I, the farmer
planted seeds
growing letter-shaped
crops of black

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This once plain face
lost at night
by candlelight
remaining now
a scene of flames
as a deformed
and written sight

This once lone land
has become
a crowded plot of rhyme
a thing itself,
that lives and breathes,
and keeps maturing
over time

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When does life stop?

By: Robin L. Kanter

It was an ordinary Wed. night at FSC. The campus was quiet and all was safe. When all of a sudden, out of nowhere a crisis hit. It was 10:30 at night, when the incident happened. No one was expecting what was coming their way. Three boys, who were minding their own business, were walking across the quad when all of a sudden, distress. Something was hurt, what could it be? Something struggling to survive, to live just one more day. The boys reached out to help victim that was hurt.

They approached slowly to make sure not to scare the injured body. When out of nowhere, they came face to face with it. Each step a little closer. Breathing heavily, not sure what to make of it, it came into view, it was none other than.....a poor..... helpless..... pigeon.

The life of that creature was the first thing on their minds, safety to get the critter back into the

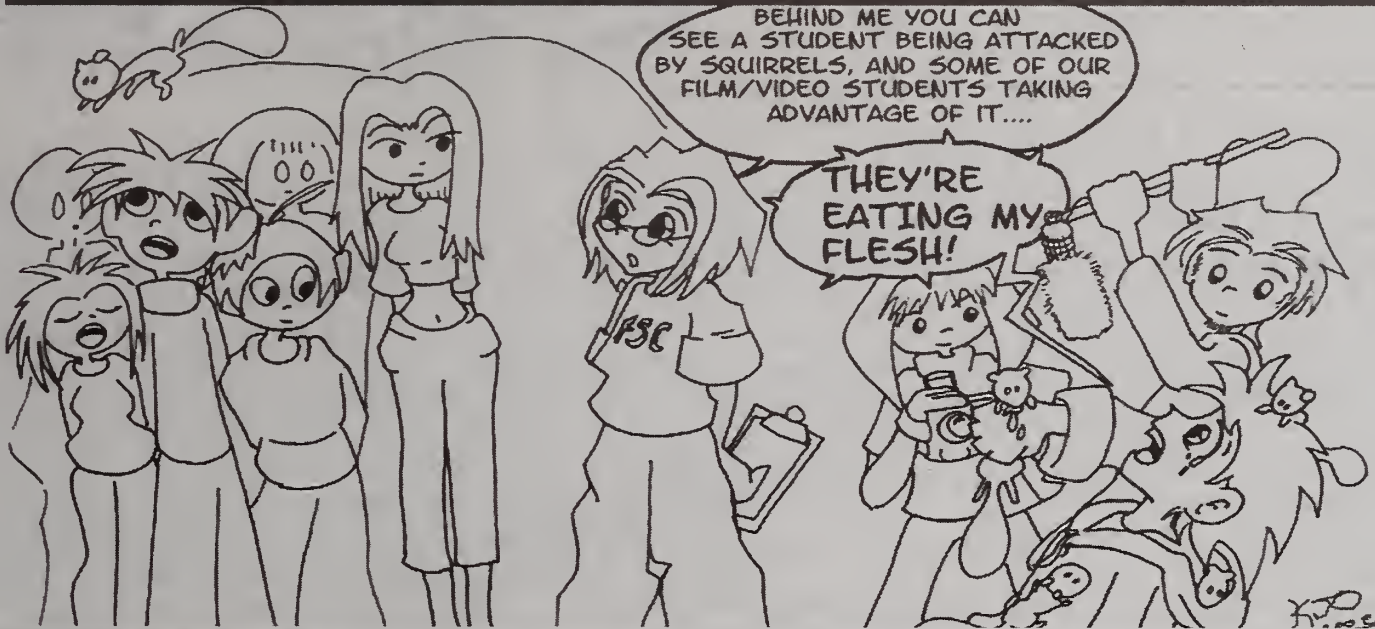
sky to fly, fly, away. One of the people nudged the creature with his toe, to see what reaction that pigeon would make of it. When the creature moved very slightly the boys called 911 immediately, but since they were on campus, they only called 3111.

When describing the dilemma to Campus Police, out of nowhere something hit the pigeon. He started squawking and moving violently trying to prove to all that he could fly, that he *would* make it to see tomorrow. The boys panicked, the life of that bird was at stake. Campus Police contacted Campus Security and they were on their way to the scene of the crime. When two girls approached the boys, they found out the situation and their hearts poured out to the pigeon as well. Campus Security arrived and approached the bird. The five people stayed away to give the bird its' privacy.

When Campus Police arrived to the scene, the five people approached anxiously hoping to hear that the bird was going to be sent to a shelter. When near the bird, they heard the news....Three words were uttered, three words that were so unbearable it made everything that much worse. They were not "Let it Be", it was three other words, three words no one wants to hear when in caring for something that is hurt, D.O.A.!

Yes that is right Dead On Arrival. A tear was shed and the poor creature would not live to see tomorrow. Was it West Nile, Some cruel joke, or had that pigeon just had its' last crumb. Until the autopsy, no one will know. However, remember the famous words of Jenny, "Please make me a bird so I can fly far, far ,far away." We all wish that this pigeon someday in another life will fly far, far away.

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PHI SIGMA SIGMA SORORITY SPONSORS "ROCK-A-THON"



By Davia Kiliulis

Beginning Thurs., Oct. 17 at noon the Phi Sigma Sigma, Zeta Rho Chapter, will begin rocking the day and night away in the Alumni Quad. For 24 continuous hours, they will actively rock in rocking chairs to benefit the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation and the McCabe Children's Family Trust. In addition to the Rock-A-Thon the chapter will be selling baked goods from 7 p.m. to midnight Thurs. evening.

Each year Phi Sigma Sigma sisters across North America raise money for the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation. The donations that Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation receive, go toward educational grants and scholarships, leadership programming, as well as the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), the sorority's national philanthropy. The NKF promotes research, donor programs, patient and family support groups, as well as public education on kidney disease of which women are mainly targeted as victims.

The McCabe Children's Family Trust was established in memory of Michelle Lynne (Morgan) McCabe, 32-year-old wife, mother and teacher, of Shrewsbury, MA, who passed away this summer. Michelle graduated Framingham North High School in 1988, and then received her bachelor's and master's degree in education from FSC, where she was a founding member of Phi Sigma Sigma's Zeta Rho Chapter. She went on to teach technology education and computer graphics at Framingham High School, and was the senior advisor to the Framingham High School Class of 2002. Michelle was a caring and positive person who was actively involved on the Fitchburg State College campus and in her community.

Please stop by the Alumni Quad throughout the event to lend your support!

Phi Sigma Sigma was founded in Nov. 1913 by ten women at Hunter College in the city of New York. The fraternity has 110 active chapters throughout the United States and Canada. The mission of Phi Sigma Sigma is to inspire personal development of each sister and perpetuate the advancement of womanhood.

The Zeta Rho Chapter of Phi Sigma Sigma was the first National sorority installed at FSC in March 1992. Zeta Rho's other philanthropic endeavors have included the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, helping out at a battered women's shelter, participating in The Walk for Rape Crisis, Make a Difference Day, and Project Bread's, Walk for Hunger. More information can be found at www.phisigmazp.org.

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The Price of Privacy

by Tim Card

Recently, it was revealed that the Microsoft was selling off customer information to marketers. Ericsson cell phones were set up to receive advertising messages from nearby businesses. Police have used people's Global Positioning Systems to give them tickets. Customers pay for a service, yet they are subjected to this unwarranted harassment. When will the assault on our privacy end?

A constitutional amendment to permanently protect citizens' privacy could be a solution. It should be completely illegal to track, contact or share information on any citizen who isn't threatening someone's health, rights or property. The only way to guarantee this right to every citizen is through a specific constitutional amendment, which the Supreme Court could interpret and uphold.

Another part of the solution would be to only give temporary operating licenses to telecommuni-

cations companies. Those who failed to respect our privacy rights and allowed telemarketing and trading in of customer data could have their rights to operate revoked. When this country was founded, all corporations operated under temporary licenses, because the founding fathers feared their potential power.

Finally, we could use personal electronic warfare devices to protect us from unwanted phone calls, advertising, or location. These devices would make it harder for stalkers to harass their victims, and they would enable us to restrict organizations from contacting us. In addition, they could prevent advertisers from bombarding us with direct marketing schemes.

If we do not act to protect ourselves, we shall be trapped in an Orwellian world, where we'll be under constant observation. We won't get any rest from unwanted marketing, and the devices we buy to make life easier will create more problems than they solve.

The makings of a champion; Patriots

by **Tim Card**

A lot of sports writers and analysts are saying that New England doesn't stand a chance to repeat as Super Bowl Champions. After all, they argue, this was a team ranked 25th in the league on defense and only scored three offensive touchdowns in the post-season, last year. Furthermore, the team didn't sign enough high-profile free agents to impress them.

Why should anyone take the Patriots seriously this year, and what was the key to their successful Super Bowl run? The answer lies not in statistics, or rankings; it is much more subtle than that. You only have to look at three key plays, and how the team responded to them, to understand what champions are made of.

What three plays were those?

The first play was when star quarterback Drew Bledsoe was knocked out for the season. The second was in the first half of the game against Oakland, when the Patriots were called for a devastating and questionable roughing the kicker penalty. The third play was in the Super bowl, when Tebucky's fumble return for a touchdown was negated by a penalty. Why would these plays, three of the worst of the season be the key to the Patriot's Super Bowl victory?

The reason is simple; the team could have given up after any of these three disasters. They could have laid down and died, but they

didn't. What makes a champion is not simply how you respond to opportunities, but also how well you respond to adversity.

What happens to a team that responds poorly to adversity? Look

The team could have given up after any of these three disasters. They could have laid down and died, but they didn't.

no further than the Oakland Raiders, in the same playoff game. Charles Woodson

grabbed Tom Brady's arm, then reached around and hit him in the face. Brady dropped the ball, and the Raiders appeared to recover it. On further review, the tuck rule took effect, making the play an incomplete pass.

The Raiders got shafted,

right? Wrong. Hitting the quarterback in the face is a fifteen-yard penalty and an automatic first down. Oakland got a huge break on the play, even though it wasn't ruled a fumble. Instead of accepting their good fortune, they fell apart. Oakland recovered in time to force New England to kick a long field goal, and they had a chance to win the game in overtime, but they were too obsessed with the tuck call, even though it gave Oakland a break from a major penalty.

In the past, many Patriots teams fell apart after tough calls, but this one regrouped and played its way to a Super bowl victory. In football, as in life, its resilience that makes the difference between champions and also-rans. When you have your back against the wall, and everything seems to be going against you, don't give up.

Falcon Fest Cont.

From Page 12

Football vs. Westfield

A quick FSC start proved to be fatal for the football team, as they took on Westfield at Elliot Field. Just coming off a last minute win versus Western New England, the Falcons worked the ball up the field. The 12-play drive put FSC on the three-yard line, where Freshman quarterback Michael Mowatt hit Falcon wideout Carmy Cesaire with a pass for the touchdown. It would be the last time Fitchburg saw the redzone.

It took some time for Westfield's attack to get online, and in the third quarter they were able to get on the board thanks to Fitchburg mistakes. FSC running backs were able to run for 135 yards, but with two fumbles, an interception and several sacks, the Falcon offense struggled.

Westfield's passing attack was hindered, but was still able to move the team downfield, scoring two more touchdowns. The last score, a culmination of a 16 play, 82-yard drive, which broke the back of the Falcon defense.

After the first touchdown, FSC was unable to score, losing 19 - 7.

Volleyball vs. Umass - Dartmouth

As the last game of the day, the Women's Volleyball (4-4) team was not only

trying to salvage Falcon Fest, but also keep themselves above .500.

Both teams came out slowly in the first set, which was eventually pushed into extra play. The tough play of Umass was able to overcome the FSC offense, allowing them to take the first frame 31 - 29.

The Corsairs of Dartmouth came out for the second set strong, beating the Falcons 30 -23, but FSC still had fight left in them. Down by two sets, the Falcons streaked in the third set behind outside hitter Jen Douk-szewicz and her 10 kills.

Unfortunately, the momentum wasn't able to carry over from the previous set, and Umass were able to top FSC in the fourth set, winning the match three games to one.

Along with Douk-szewicz performance, FSC was led by Arizona native Margaret Bartoli with 26 assists, and Freshman hitter Kimberly Anne Carter with 15 digs.

While the day turned out to be a bust for the athletic teams, all the Falcons have a long season ahead. The results weren't favorable, but there was spirit on the field.

The Lost Season

From Page 12

of facing them.

The Red Sox fans have been in a state of anguish since the all-star break. After one of the best starts in history, they fell off the wagon, falling out of the pennant race in early September. Since then, theories have been flying about how to fix this team. Sign more pitchers, fire the coach, and even trade Nomar.

This team is good. They have talent at every position and could go toe to toe with any team in the league, but they have been a bit unlucky. Within the next two or three years, the Red Sox will make the playoffs. They may even win a series or two. This team is too good to believe they need a dramatic change to on course. They just need to be patient.

We all need to be patient. Just like our parents... and grand parents... and great grandparents... and great gre....



Photo by Robin Kanter, Point Sports

The Lost Season: The Yankees and the Red Sox

By Orlando Claffey

We have seen them lose time and time again, but it never really fazed us, because each loss was followed by two or three wins. The team was a model of how an organization should be constructed. A deep farm system, a deep bullpen and the owner's deep pockets help to create one of the greatest reputations in recent sports history; the unbeatable Yankees.

With Anaheim's victory last weekend, the Yankees showed that they were mortal. Even with their slew of starters and all-star lineup, New York fell to the scrappy and fundamentally sound Angels team.

Much like the Red Sox, the pinstriped pansies didn't live up to there potential this season, and many questions are going to be asked in the off-season. Those same questions will be asked in Boston, but after seeing the Yankees lose, the pressure has decreased.

For a decade, Boston fans have lived in the shadow of the Evil Empire, and have been blinded by their own ambition. New York has served as a role model. An image of a flawless baseball team, with their hearts together and a hand full of rings flashing in front of our face every year.

Now, the Yankees are the Red Sox; they have failed. Sure the Diamondbacks beat them, but it was looked at like a fluke. This shows how unpredictable this sport really is. The Yankees, for all their talent, was just on a really good winning streak, which was help by the fear

Continued on Page 11

Teams falter during FalconFest

By Orlando Claffey

Falcon Fest weekend was suppose to showcase the school, and its athletic teams, but due to a late night rainstorm and some tough loses, Fitchburg's homecoming weekend ended sour.

The night prior, the skies opened up, giving the college a healthy dose of water, and turned Elliot Field into a sponge. With the Football game in the afternoon, the field was in no shape to handle the fluid pace of the men and women's soccer games scheduled for later that night. Reluctantly, they were both canceled before the day began.

Field Hockey vs. Framingham

Facing off before noon, the Field Hockey (2-4) team looked to set the tone of the day. The women jumped out to a quick lead, when Junior Serena St. George passed to fellow Junior Nicole Kenney for the first goal of the game.

The Falcons held the Framingham State women until Jody



Photo by Robin Kanter, Point Sports



Photo by Robin Kanter, Point Sports

Ben Gilbert (F), Adam Beaudry (S) and Rob Higgins (C) show their school spirit at the football game against Westfield State. While the Falcons may have lost, these three probably won themselves a phone number or two.

Lussier broke free and scored, knotting the game at one. Three minutes later, Framingham's Becky Martin beat Fitchburg's keeper Angela Buffington, to give the visiting team the lead. It wouldn't last for long.

St. George and Kenney switch roles a minute later, with St. George pushing the ball into the goal, heading into halftime with the game tied at two.

Regaining her spark after the

break, St. George came out early, this time finding Junior Jen Currier for a goal and the lead, only a few minutes into the second half.

Down by one, Framingham brought their guns out, unloading shot after shot on Buffington and the Falcon defense. She was able to stop seven shots during the game, but three Framingham balls snuck through, giving the visitors a commanding lead at 5-3.

Fitchburg was able to muster only eight shots on goal, nearly half of Framingham's 15 shots. In the end, the enemy was able to push further than the Falcons, giving them the win.

Continued on Page 11

Sat. Oct 12

F Hockey at Endicott 12
Football bye
Volleyball at Framingham
TBA

Mon. Oct 14

M Soccer at Salem 1
W Soccer Salem 1

Wen. Oct 16

F Hockey Wheelock Noon
Volleyball Simmons 7

Thu. Oct 17

M Soccer Daniel Web 7

Sat. Oct 19

F Hockey at Bridgewater 2
Football at Mass Maritime
Noon
M Soccer at Framingham
9am
W Soccer Framingham 1
Volleyball at Bridgewater
Noon
X Country at TBA